Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from the Office of First-Year Experience! I hope that you find the information in this newsletter to be both timely and informative. I look forward to serving you and your student during this academic year. I invite your feedback and comments as we continue moving through this important first year. Please feel free to email me at margo.warden@jsc.edu or call at (802) 635-1256.

Respectfully,
Margo Warden, Director of First-Year Experience

Tuning in to Campus Life

Now that your student has been in school for several weeks, it’s time to take stock of his or her level of involvement in campus happenings. Do you get the sense that your student is taking advantage of all that college life has to offer? From academic to social activities and from artistic to athletic events, we promise that there is plenty to choose from!

Research shows that students who engage in campus happenings, whether by joining an organization or attending campus events, often feel more a part of their school. They also learn to juggle more, leading to increased academic success. So, instead of warning your student away from out-of-class involvements, consider encouraging him/her to balance academics with some campus happenings. Your student’s social life, sense of belonging and grades will likely benefit!

Some Questions to Ask
You can gauge your student’s level of involvement on campus by asking the following questions:

- What are some of the events that have been happening on campus lately?
- Have you made an appointment with your Academic Advisor yet?
- Are there any major speakers or performances visiting the campus this semester?
- How are the athletic teams doing?
- Where are your favorite places to hang out on campus?
- What’s the best way to find out about campus events?

By chatting about these topics, you’ll let your student know that you care about more than just how he/she does academically. Participating in things outside of classes will enrich your student intellectually, physically and spiritually. Encourage him/her to read flyers, peruse the campus newspaper and website, attend hall events, and visit the cool nooks and crannies on campus. College is all about trying new things. Your student has to get out there and explore in order to reap the benefits.

A Snapshot of What’s Going On Around Campus...

- TONI MURDEN MCCLURE, AUTHOR OF A PEARL IN THE STORM, COMES TO CAMPUS SEPTEMBER 24, 8PM
- BADGER WOMEN’S TENNIS VS. THOMAS COLLEGE OCTOBER 5, 12PM
- IRAQ WAR VETERAN TAYLOR URRUELA JOINS PRODUCER JOE SOUSA FOR A SCREENING OF COMING BACK OCTOBER 28, 7PM
- JSC CHOIRS’ HOLIDAY GALA, DECEMBER 14, 7PM

Common Reading Initiative

During New Student Orientation, your son or daughter had an opportunity to meet with fellow students, faculty and staff members, and share his/her impressions and ideas about A Pearl in the Storm, our common reading for the Class of 2018. On Wednesday, September 24, author Tori Murden McClure will be on campus visiting classes, and addressing the student body in the evening. Students will have several opportunities to interact with Tori, once again allowing for deeper conversations about the book and its larger themes.

Moon Hooch rocked Dibden Center for the Arts on September 4th, kicking off a calendar filled with exciting and interesting events that your student is sure to enjoy.

Involvement = Academic and Personal Success “Student engagement is positively related to grades and to persistence between the first and second year of college.” -from the 2006 report from the National Survey of Student Engagement
Seasonal Student Issues

There’s a seasonal ebb and flow when it comes to student issues. Here are a few things your student may be experiencing this month:

- **First-Year Students** begin to realize college life is not as perfect as they were expecting it to be.
- Diversity issues become apparent as students begin interacting with others who are different from them.
- Conflicts between friends - both new and old - can occur as students settle into the rhythm of the new academic year.
- Feeling behind in class work and wanting more contact with instructors.
- Anticipating mid-terms and questioning their abilities.
- Adjusting to newfound freedoms can be a hard balancing act.

If you are concerned that your student may be struggling with any of these issues, please encourage him/her to get in touch with us. When students contact The Office of First-Year Experience we can assist in getting them connected with the resources that can best address their situation. We are located in Dewey Campus Center, Room 154, or they can call us at 635-1474, or email us at Jennifer.Stefanski@jsc.edu or Margo.Warden@jsc.edu.

Family Weekend - September 19-21, 2014

At the end of the fourth week, we encourage all students to invite their families to join us for a weekend of activities aimed at connecting the whole family to campus. Family & Alumni Reunion Weekend is a great time to check in on how your student is doing and for students to show their parents the “ins and outs” of their new home away from home. During this weekend alumni also come to campus to celebrate their alma mater, allowing first-year students to imagine their own graduation and career.

Please go to http://www.jsc.edu/parents-and-families for additional information and to register. Here you will also find a detailed schedule of all the wonderful events we have planned. We’ll look forward to seeing you! Questions??? Please contact the Dean of Students Office at 802-635-1200.

Important Dates for Fall Semester

**Academic Alerts:** September 22

In the fifth week of each semester, faculty are asked to identify students who they believe may be struggling. Although parents will not be directly notified, you are encouraged to check-in with your student to see if he/she has received any alerts via email.

**Fall Break:** October 4 - 12

**Spring Registration Begins:** November 10

Each new student is required to meet with his/her academic advisor at least five times during the first-year. Meetings before registrations are crucial to discuss plans, find out about important courses and receive approval for the next semester.

*Registration days are determined by the number of earned credits (not including credits attempted during Fall 2014).*

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<th>Registration Days</th>
<th>Bachelor’s</th>
<th>Associate’s</th>
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<td>Monday, 11/10/14</td>
<td>&gt;= 75 Credits</td>
<td>&gt;= 30 Credits</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 11/11/14</td>
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<tr>
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**2014 Parent Handbook**

As the parent of a new student at Johnson State College, we would like to send you a copy of the JSC Parent Handbook. This book is designed to be an invaluable resource for you throughout your student’s first year and beyond.

These handbooks were handed out at both Summer Orientation sessions, but if you were unable to attend, or if you have misplaced your copy please forward your address to: Barbara.Flathers@jsc.edu or call 802-635-1200, and we would be happy to send you one.